

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 30, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-37 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-17, 19-31, 33, and 37 were rejected. Claims 18, 32, and 34-36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 7 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 21, and 37 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claim 34 has been amended to maintain proper antecedent basis. Claims 38-47 have been added to more fully claim subject matter to which the Applicants are entitled. All amendments presented are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 18, 32, 34, 35 and 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 37 to include subject matter recited in Claim 18. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as new Claim 41. Claim 34 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as Claim 42. Note that Claim 42 does not included the subject matter recited in Claim 30 or 33. The remaining objected-to claims are not presented in independent form at this time.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Independent Claims 1-9, 17, 21, 30, 33, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,701,470 issued to Patrick J. Mullarkey et a. ("Mullarkey.") in view of Merriam Webster, Tenth Edition, page 780 ("Webster's"). The remaining rejected Claims 10-16, 19-20, 22-29, 31, 33, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Mullarkey in view of Webster's, and further in view of various other references. For the reasons set forth below, the Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In rejecting these claims, the Office acknowledges that Mullarkey does not explicitly teach plural test sites. Since Webster's defines a network as a system of computers connected by a communications line, and since Mullarkey teaches a communications line, however, the Office reasons that it would have been obvious to combine Webster's definition with Mullarkey to arrive at the applicants' claimed invention (See p.3 of Official Action).

Claims 1-6, 8-17 and 19-20

In response to the Office's rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to recite, generally, a distributed memory test system that comprises a host computer storing a plurality of different test recipes...plural test sites...and a network interfaced with a host computer...wherein the host computer provides at least one of the test sites with a test recipe different from a recipe provided to another test site.

The Applicants submit that Mullarkey, alone or in combination with Webster's, does not teach or suggest that a host computer provides at least one of a plurality of test sites with a test recipe different from a recipe provided to another test site. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that Claim 1, as amended, is allowable. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 1.

Inasmuch as Claims 2-17 and 19-20 depend from allowable independent Claim 1, these claims are themselves allowable. For at least this reason, the Applicants further request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 2-17 and 19-20.

Claims 21-31

In response to the Office's rejection, Claim 21 has been amended to recite, generally, a method for testing memory devices, the method comprising...communicating a second test recipe, different from the first test recipe, from a host computer over a network to a second test site.

The Applicants submit that Mullarkey, alone or in combination with Webster's, does not teach or suggest communicating a second test recipe, different from the first test recipe, from a host computer over a network to a second test site. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that Claim 21, as amended, is allowable, and respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 21.

Inasmuch as Claims 22-31 depend from allowable independent Claim 21, these claims are themselves allowable. For at least this reason, the Applicants further request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 22-31.

Claims 37-47

In response to the Office's rejection, Claim 37 has been amended to recite, generally, that the test instructions comprise instructions to perform vector testing. This subject matter was previously recited in Claim 18. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that Claim 37, as amended, is allowable, and respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 37. Inasmuch as Claims 38-40 depend from allowable independent Claim 37, Claims 38-40 are themselves allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 41 and 42 are original Claims 18 and 34 presented in independent form. Since the Office indicated that Claims 18 and 34 would be allowable if presented in independent form, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 41 and 42. Inasmuch as Claims 43-47 depend from respective allowable independent Claims, Claims 43-47 are themselves allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-6, 8-32, and 34-37, as amended, and initial allowance of Claims 38-47.

Applicants have submitted payment for any additional claim fees herewith. If, however, additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,

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